

BofS Agenda 11-8-16 - Sewage Sludge Ordinance Extension

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To: Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>; Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>; Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>; Lynn Compton <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>; Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>;

Cc: Board of Supervisors <Boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>; cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

SLO Co. BofS;

re: 11-8-16 Agenda Item #16 - Sewage Sludge Land Application Ordinance Extension

I support the staff recommendation to extend the current interim ordinance to 3-31-21, and I urge you to vote in favor of this extension.

In protecting the county from the spreading of excessive amounts of excessively contaminated sewage sludge, the current ordinance is working.

The interim could most effectively be used in exploring methods of sewage sludge management to reduce green house gas emissions, capture methane for electricity production, using the carbon in sewage sludge as a fuel for energy production (gasification/pyrolysis) which have the potential to reduce or eliminate land application. The BofS has previously received significant materials about such methods showing they are being used, and are technologically feasible and economically profitable in the state, nation and around the world.

A task force similar to the two the county has convened regarding how to permit land application could be assembled and acquire information directly from municipalities, sewage plants and companies currently using these methods and planning to do so.

Such an effort would be consistent with county policy:

EHS Task Force (cited in Staff Report) Primary Recommendation #6 to BofS:

In developing an ordinance San Luis Obispo County should consider all feasible methods of treated sewage sludge/biosolids management and their relative impacts.

SLO Co. Conservation and Open Space Element

Chapter 5. Energy Resources

Policy E 1.4 Methane

Increase the use of methane as an energy source from wastewater treatment plants and active and inactive, closed landfills.

- Implementation Strategy E 1.4.1 Capture methane from landfills and wastewater

Agenda No. 16

Meeting Date: November 8, 2016

Presented By: David Broadwater

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treatment facilities

Encourage landfill and wastewater treatment

operators to capture and use methane for energy production where feasible.

Policy E 1.5 Waste burning

Encourage waste-burning biomass facilities and conversion technologies as methods of producing electrical energy without endangering resource recovery programs where environmental and air quality are protected and the facility is compatible with adjoining uses.

SLO Co. Agriculture Element

AGP13: Agricultural Material Composting

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b. The county should carefully evaluate and work cooperatively with appropriate state and federal agencies, local organizations and land owners to determine whether and under what circumstances bio-solids are appropriate for land disposal.

Implementation:

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2. The Board of Supervisors should ask the county Agriculture and Environmental Health Departments, with public participation and input, to develop recommendations as to whether and under what circumstances bio-solids can be used on agricultural lands.

To date, the County has yet to implement its policies to examine "whether" to pursue land application by considering "all feasible methods of treated sewage sludge/biosolids management and their relative impacts.", or to analyze methane capture and direct conversion for energy production.

Now is the time to convene a task force to implement these policies, availing ourselves of the abundant information from those who are using and developing these technologies. The four-year extension of this ordinance would provide ample time for such a project.

Thank You,

David Broadwater

Center for Sludge Information

PS: Clerk, please post this on the website as correspondence received.